3. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the fixed time is between 50 and 200 minutes.

4. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3 wherein the fixed time is between 60 and 150 minutes.

5. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein 40 to 70% of the total amount of the short acting hypnotic is released during the immediate release pulse.

6. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the delayed release pulse lasts between 30 and 200 minutes.

7. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the time for release of 85% of the total amount of the short acting hypnotic is between 2 and 6 hours.

8. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a short acting hypnotic or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 comprising two kinds of pharmaceutical entities: one immediate release entity and one delayed release entity.

9. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 as a dosage form selected from the group consisting of capsules, tablets, multilayer tablets, multicoated tablets.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 as a capsule comprising one or more immediate release tablets and one or more delayed release tablets.

11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 as a capsule comprising a mixture of delayed release particles and immediate release particles.

12. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 as a capsule comprising a mixture of delayed release particles and an immediate release powder.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 as a tablet comprising a number of delayed release coated pellets comprising the short-acting hypnotic imbedded in a matrix.

14. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the delayed release tablets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

16. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

19. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the immediate release entity and the prolonged release entity are administered simultaneously but separately.

20. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the delayed release entity comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable organic acid selected from the group consisting of tartaric, malic, fumaric, lactic, citric, adipic or succinic acid and their salts, in the form of racemates or isomers.

21. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

22. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

23. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22 wherein the short acting hypnotic is ~~zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

26. (~~Amended~~) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 73 wherein the visual change is chosen from a ~~change~~ in color, floating of the composition at the surface of the drink, and formation of insoluble particles on the ~~surface~~ of the drink, on the brim of the glass, in the drink and/or on the bottom of the glass or a combination ~~thereof~~.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2 wherein the fixed time is between 60 and 150 minutes.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 wherein the second pulse lasts between 30 and 200 minutes.

29. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28 wherein the 40 to 70% of the total amount of short-acting hypnotic is released during the immediate release pulse.

30. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29 wherein the time for release of 85% of the total amount of short-acting hypnotic is between 2 and 6 hours.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the matrix comprises the short-acting hypnotic.

32. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein immediate release non-coated pellets are mixed with delayed release coated pellets.

33. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the delayed release coated pellets are further coated with a layer comprising the short-acting hypnotic imbedded in a matrix free from said short-acting hypnotic.

34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 as a tablet comprising one or more layers containing the delayed release pellets in a matrix free from the short-acting hypnotic and one or more layers containing the short-acting hypnotic in an immediate release matrix.

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35. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the delayed release particles are coated with a mixture containing at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the delayed release pellets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 wherein the delayed release pellets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 wherein the delayed release pellets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33 wherein the delayed release pellets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

40. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34 wherein the delayed release pellets are coated with at least one ammonio methacrylate copolymer and the core contains a cationic or zwitterionic surfactant.

41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride

and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

42. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 37 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 38 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-

alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 40 wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl-ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

47. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

48. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

49. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

50. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 43 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

51. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 44 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

52. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

53. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 46 wherein the core contains cocamidopropylbetaine.

54. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 35 wherein the delayed release entity comprises a pharmaceutical acceptable organic acid selected from the group

consisting of tartaric, malic, fumaric, lactic, citric, adipic or succinic acid and their salts, in the form of racemates or isomers.

55. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein the delayed release entity comprises a pharmaceutical acceptable organic acid selected from the group consisting of tartaric, malic, fumaric, lactic, citric, adipic or succinic acid and their salts, in the form of racemates or isomers.

56. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 41 wherein the delayed release entity comprises a pharmaceutical acceptable organic acid selected from the group consisting of tartaric, malic, fumaric, lactic, citric, adipic or succinic acid and their salts, in the form of racemates or isomers.

57. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42 wherein the delayed release entity comprises a pharmaceutical acceptable organic acid selected from the group consisting of tartaric, malic, fumaric, lactic, citric, adipic or succinic acid and their salts, in the form of racemates or isomers.

58. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

59. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

60. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

61. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

62. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 42 wherein the short acting hypnotic belongs to the therapeutic classes of benzodiazepines, cyclopyrrolones, pyrazolopyrimidines, phenothiazines or imidazopyridines.

63. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 58 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

64. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 59 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

65. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

66. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

67. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 62 wherein the short acting hypnotic is chosen from triazolam, temazepam, brotizolam, zolpiclone, (R)-zopiclone, zaleplon, alimemazine, zolpidem and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

68. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 63 wherein the short acting hypnotic is zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

69. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 64 wherein the short acting hypnotic is zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

70. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the short acting hypnotic is zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

71. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 66 wherein the short acting hypnotic is zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

72. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 67 wherein the short acting hypnotic is zolpidem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

73. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 additionally comprising a constituent which, upon introduction of the composition into an alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink, causes a visual change in the appearance of the drink.

74. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 additionally comprising a constituent which, upon introduction of the composition into an alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink, causes a visual change in the appearance of the drink.

75. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74 wherein the visual change is chosen from a change in color, floating of the composition at the surface of the drink, and formation of insoluble particles on the surface of the drink, on the brim of the glass, in the drink and/or on the bottom of the glass or a combination thereof.